

April 28, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HWS

RE: Unpermitted Mine, East Canyon, Western States Resources,  
D/037/027, San Juan County, Utah

Scott Johnson and I visited with Mr. Bob Turri of the Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area, on Thursday, April 27, 1989. We visited with Mr. Turri to discuss ongoing minerals operations and problems in his area. During the discussion, Mr. Turri indicated there was a uranium operation currently operating in the East Canyon area without a permit. He didn't know exactly where the mine was located. After the meeting with Mr. Turri, approximately 5:30 - 6:00 in the evening, Scott and I visited the East Canyon area to try to locate the mine site. Our first instincts took us to the old Frisco mine (DOE/037/038) area, previously operated by Mr. Nick Murphy under a Declaration of Exemption. Also in the proximity just south of the Frisco Mine is another mine called the Dime Mine, under another DOE/037/027 filed by Mike Shumway of Utah Minerals Development Co. (now Western States Resources).

Upon arriving at the site, we found that the mine access road had been newly upgraded, it's been well graded and heavily impacted by heavy machinery. We arrived at the Dime site and found that of the two portals, one was being covered, one was still open and had been worked, somebody had been in the mine and mining ore out of the mine. The old ore pile associated with that mine had also been picked through and part of it had been removed. A dozer was at the site, still warm from having been operated that day. The dozer had been in the process of covering up one of the old portals at the site.

After inspecting the old Dime site, we went a little bit north about 1/4 mile up the road from the Dime, towards the Frisco. In that area, we found another heavily impacted site associated with the same lease. The old portal at that site had been covered up, backfilled and regraded. Approximately 1/2 of the old ore pile had been removed. It was obvious that a very recent removal of the ore had occurred.



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The Frisco Mine, operated by Nick Murphy is just on the border of the Western States Resources property. Scott and I looked that over and determined that no recent mining had occurred on the site. Mr. Murphy's mine machinery was missing though, during this inspection. A previous inspection last summer, there were several bits and pieces of mining machinery onsite. This site is just as trashed out as it ever was, lots of debris; there is one trashed Chevy van, another trashed Manza sedan.

Scott and I determined that the amount of recent disturbance associated with the Western States Resources lease is approximately 7 1/2 acres. The road itself makes up some 3.6 acres of the total; the disturbance of the flat portions, the mined portions of the site is about 3 acres. A site at the bottom of the road, down the canyon that the operator used for stockpiling and then loading out the ore consists of about 1/2 - 3/4 of an acre.

Scott and I went back to the site again the following day, on April 28th. We arrived on site at approximately noon and found an operator there on site. The operator's name was Mike Rodell. He indicated to us that he was working for Western States Resources, aka, Mike and Dick Shumway.

Mr. Rodell indicated to us that he was busy reclaiming the site for Western States Resources. He told us that the Shumway's felt that the site needed to be reclaimed, so they were out there, as a token of good faith reclaiming the site for the state.

Mr. Rodell's implication was that the operator was out there simply to reclaim the site and not to extract any ore. This implication is obviously not true because Scott and I determined the day before that the operator had moved out a substantial amount of ore from the old ore piles onsite; they had also been into the underground workings of the site and extracted ore at the same time. A portal at the Dime site was still open at the time of both inspections; there was equipment that had obviously, by the marks on the ground, been running in and out of that mine.

Mr. Rodell indicated to us that he would clean debris from the site by placing it in the portals that he was covering up; the portals would then be backfilled. Mr. Rodell asked us about the reclamation of the remaining portions of the site, particularly the waste dumps. We advised him to round off the tops of the dumps, grade them down to an acceptable slope, cover up the road. We also advised Mr. Rodell to do the reseedling at the site in the fall rather than this spring.

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We spoke about the road reclamation and Mr. Rodell indicated that the road would be reclaimed by the operator; that they had been intending to do that all along. The reclamation of the road is something that I feel is an obligation on the part of the operator and should be followed through. Since the operator of the Frisco Mine, Mr. Nick Murphy has not submitted any further information or NOI's to the Division concerning that site, I assume that he no longer is interested in the site, so the reclamation of the road should not be a concern to him.

It is my estimation that all of the disturbance <sup>Range</sup> lies within the boundary of State Section 36 of Township 31 South, 24 East. It is not obvious to me, at this time, that any of the recent disturbance lies on BLM land.

It will be necessary to contact both State Lands and Forestry, and the BLM concerning this mine site in the event that they want to follow through with any actions against the operator. The Division will maintain contact with Western States Resources concerning this site and make sure that all reclamation efforts have been followed through.

jb  
cc: Lowell Braxton  
Jerry Mansfield, State Lands  
Bob Turri, BLM, San Juan Resource Area  
MN4/116-118







D/037/027

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old decline in process of  
being buried. old site on  
southern portion of disturbance old  
Dime Mine?

D/037/027

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Dozer in process of burying  
old decline. Dime Mine

D/037/027

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Old portal, in use, at Dime  
Mine site. Tire tracks entering  
mine indicate recent use.

D/037/027

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Old Portal - Decline at  
Dime Mine.

M/037/027

4-27-89

Portion of disturbed area at  
old Dime Mine site. Old wastepile  
foreground. Dozer burying old decline  
background.

D/037/027

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Recent disturbance at the  
Western States Resources site. Area  
used for loading ore to left. Area  
of old stockpile recently reused to  
right.